

PROCEEDINGS IN CONGRESS.

IN THE SENATE.

Mr. ALLEN, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, to whom was referred the joint resolution to abrogate and annul the convention of the 6th August, 1827, reported the same with an amendment. The resolution, as amended, is as follows:

A Joint Resolution to annul and abrogate the convention of the sixth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven, between the United States of America and Great Britain, relative to the country westward of the St. Mary or Rocky Mountains.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in virtue of the second article of the convention of the sixth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven, between the United States of America and Great Britain, relative to the country westward of the St. Mary or Rocky Mountains, the United States of America do hereby annul and abrogate that convention, and the said convention is hereby considered entirely annulled and abrogated: *Provided*, That this resolution shall take effect after the expiration of the term of twelve months from the date on which notice shall have been given to Great Britain of the passage of this resolution, and the President of the United States is hereby authorized and required to give such notice, and also, at the expiration of said convention, to issue his proclamation setting forth that fact.

Mr. ALLEN observed that he would move that the Senate take up this resolution, with a view to assign some particular day for its consideration. The reason why he did not now make a motion for the purpose of fixing a day was, that he was desirous to understand by an honorable Senator that he was desirous, when this motion should be made, of raising a preliminary question, which would probably be the subject of the resolution, to the final action of the Senate upon the resolution he had reported, so as to keep the discussion of the two questions separate and distinct from each other.

The joint resolution was then ordered to lie on the table and be printed for the use of the Senate.

THE ARMY.

The bill for raising a regiment of mounted riflemen being under consideration in the Committee of the Whole—

Mr. BENTON made a few observations in relation to the views of the committee from which the bill had been reported. The bill, he had been assured, was a peace measure, having no reference to war or the rumors of war, but growing entirely out of the extension of our settlements on the frontier. It was so entirely and exclusively intended for the preservation of good order and the protection of our settlements, that if he held in his hand a bond for the continuance of peace, he would not wish to see it broken. This bill was necessary; it was necessary as a part of the permanent peace establishment of this country; and it was in this point of view that he desired it should be considered by the Senate, and not as touching upon the question of our foreign relations. The only material question, as he regarded it, would be, whether it would be better to have one, or two regiments should be raised instead of one, in consequence of the great extension of our southwestern frontier, and in consequence of the great number of Indians with whom we had to be brought in contact. At present, however, it was proposed that one regiment should be raised, and a corps of mounted riflemen was considered the most efficient corps that could be raised for the purpose of maintaining peace on the frontier.

The line of military stations on the route to Oregon would require the service of a corps of this description, not only for their defence, but for the construction, in the first instance, of the stockades or forts. It was an open tract of country, a sandy waste—a desert, where these forts were to be built as defences against the roving tribes of Indians. Mounted riflemen were the best troops for the purpose, and that could be employed, because it would combine the advantages of cavalry and infantry. It was the most appropriate army for the service required; and this was so obvious that he did not deem it necessary to say more as to the general design, than that it was intended that the troops should themselves erect the works for these defences, and should receive the same of allowances as were consequently the most efficient corps of cavalry, and a commutation for the spirit part of their rations. The bill did not decide between stockades and blockhouses, nor did it provide as to the material to be used in the construction, nor as to the places where they should be erected. All this was left open for the decision of the Executive. Having seen a copy of the bill, the Quartermaster General of the army, he had received from him, in connection with the bill, a list of equipment, &c.; and, in accordance with that estimate, he would move to fill the first blank by the insertion of the sum of \$76,500. With respect to the second blank to be filled with the sum necessary for building the works, the Quartermaster General had not spoken with any precision; he supposed, however, that \$3,000 for each post would be sufficient. To this he would add to be added as compensation to the Indians for the use of the ground. He would therefore propose that the latter blank be filled with the sum of \$100,000.

Mr. CALHOUN said he entirely approved of the measure, and he would suggest to the honorable Senator to insert a certain amount for each military station, in place of a round sum for the whole.

Mr. BENTON, in accordance with this suggestion, proposed a new clause, appropriating \$3,000 for the erection of the works at each station, and \$2,000 for compensation to the Indians for the ground.

These amendments having been agreed to in Committee of the Whole, the bill was reported to the Senate, with its amendments, and they were adopted.

The bill was then ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, viz:

“A BILL to provide for raising a regiment of mounted riflemen, and for establishing military stations on the route to Oregon.”

“Be it enacted, &c. That there shall be raised one regiment of mounted riflemen, to be composed and organized as follows, to wit: One colonel, one lieutenant colonel, one major, one quartermaster sergeant, and two chief buglers, one adjutant, one sergeant major, one surgeon, one medical director, one chaplain, and ten companies; each company shall consist of one captain, one first lieutenant, one second lieutenant, (exclusive of the adjutant lieutenant,) four sergeants, four corporals, two buglers, one farrier, one blacksmith, and sixty-four privates.”

“Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates shall be entitled to the same pay and allowances as are allowed to an artificer of artillery.”

“Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the said regiment of riflemen shall be subject to the rules and articles of war, and shall be recruited in the same manner as other troops in the service of the United States, and with the same conditions and limitations; and the officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians, privates, and privates shall be entitled to the same provisions for wounds and disabilities, and the same provisions for widows and children, and the same allowances and benefits in every respect, as are allowed to other troops composing the army of the United States.”

“Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That the non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates of said regiment, when employed in constructing fortifications, making surveys, cutting roads, or performing other labor, shall be allowed fifteen cents per day each, with a commutation in money for the extra spirit ration, as provided by the act of the second of March, one thousand eight hundred and nineteen, entitled ‘An act to regulate the pay of the army when on fatigue duty.’”

“Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That the sum of seventy-five thousand five hundred dollars, for mounting and equipping said regiment, and for the purchase of arms, accoutrements, and equipment, shall be paid out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.”

“Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That a sum not exceeding three thousand dollars, if any sum shall be found necessary for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the military station or defence which the President may deem necessary on the line of communication to Oregon, and a sum not exceeding two thousand dollars for making communication to the said station which may own or possess the ground on which the said station may be erected, and for each station.”

Mr. CRITTENDEN suggested that there should be some limit to the appropriation, as was the usual course in bills of this nature. At present it was without limit: the cost of building stockades or forts might be extended to a million or five millions of dollars, or a hundred thousand only. It seemed to him to be better to follow the usual and proper constitutional mode of legislation, and affix some specific limit to expenditures. The sum of three thousand dollars for the building of each fort and two thousand for the purchase of the ground for each station, without specifying how the money was to be expended, was a very liberal provision; but more than a hundred thousand dollars would be expended; he would therefore propose that the bill be amended by adding the words “not exceeding in all one hundred thousand dollars.”

Mr. BENTON said he supposed the number of stations would not exceed ten, and that would make the limitation fifty thousand.

Mr. CRITTENDEN. Well, fifty thousand, then, I hope will be the sum named.

Mr. BENTON said it might be that less would be sufficient; it would hardly exceed one hundred thousand, at all events. The stations were to be erected by the soldiers themselves from the material most convenient to be had, and that material he believed would be found to be the dried bricks he had spoken of yesterday. And, by the way, though he had recommended that sort of material for the construction of the defences, as being proof against rifle bullets, he had not gone so far as he observed the Reports had gone, in stating that they would resist all assaults.

The question was taken on the passage of the bill, and decided in the affirmative.

On motion of Mr. BENTON, the title of the bill was amended so as to read as follows: “A bill for raising a regiment of mounted riflemen, and for establishing military stations on the route to Oregon.”

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. CHARLES J. INGERSOLL said he was instructed by the Committee on Foreign Affairs to report a joint resolution in relation to Oregon; and, for the purpose of affording him an opportunity of doing so, he moved a suspension of the rules prescribing the order of business.

The House then suspended the rules; and—

Mr. INGERSOLL reported the resolution, which was, as follows:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be and he is hereby authorized and required to give notice to Great Britain that the convention between the United States and Great Britain concerning the territory of Oregon of the 6th of August, 1827, signed at London.

Mr. C. J. INGERSOLL submitted, to be added to the resolution, by way of amendment, the following:

“That the President be and he is hereby authorized and required to give notice to Great Britain that the convention between the United States and Great Britain concerning the territory of Oregon of the 6th of August, 1827, signed at London, is hereby annulled and abrogated, and the said convention is hereby considered entirely annulled and abrogated: *Provided*, That this resolution shall take effect after the expiration of the term of twelve months from the date on which notice shall have been given to Great Britain of the passage of this resolution, and the President of the United States is hereby authorized and required to give such notice, and also, at the expiration of said convention, to issue his proclamation setting forth that fact.”

Mr. ALLEN observed that he would move that the Senate take up this resolution, with a view to assign some particular day for its consideration. The reason why he did not now make a motion for the purpose of fixing a day was, that he was desirous to understand by an honorable Senator that he was desirous, when this motion should be made, of raising a preliminary question, which would probably be the subject of the resolution, to the final action of the Senate upon the resolution he had reported, so as to keep the discussion of the two questions separate and distinct from each other.

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House and the New York gentleman, by way of telling the House what that game was, had pulled out of his pocket a copy of the Times newspaper of London, and had read a further paragraph. These were his own acts, about which this House had no constitutional right to interfere. The President asked not its advice or interposition in them. Whether they be proper or not, he alone was competent to their performance, and he alone ought to be held responsible; but if the House thus irregularly interposed in the notice, it voluntarily assumed the responsibility with the President.

If the House distrusted the President in this matter, it might pass a motion for the President to resign, or it might pass a motion for the President to be impeached, or it might pass a motion for the President to be removed from office, or it might pass a motion for the President to be declared incompetent to exercise the powers of his office, or it might pass a motion for the President to be declared incapable of performing the duties of his office, or it might pass a motion for the President to be declared unworthy to exercise the powers of his office, or it might pass a motion for the President to be declared unfit to exercise the powers of his office, or it might pass a motion for the President to be declared ineligible to exercise the powers of his office, or it might pass a motion for the President to be declared disqualified to exercise the powers of his office, or it might pass a motion for the President to be declared incapable of performing the duties of his office, or it 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